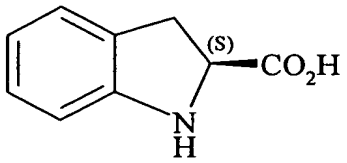
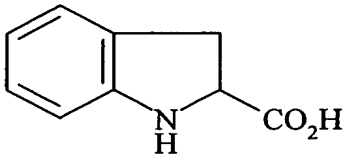
CLAIMS

1. Process for the synthesis of (2S)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid of formula (I) :



(I),

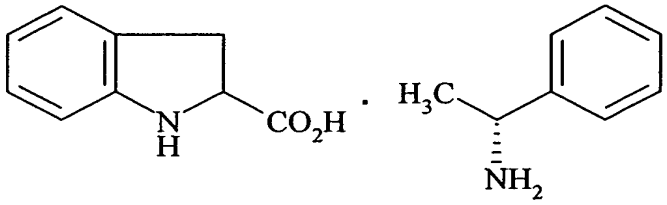
characterised in that racemic indoline-2-carboxylic acid of formula (III) :



(III)

is reacted with a chiral amine

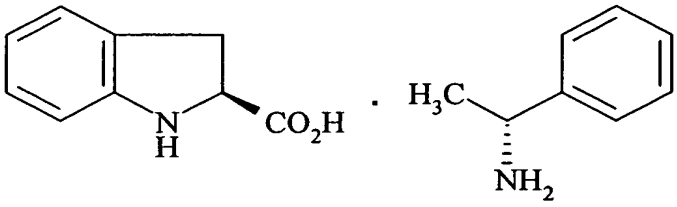
to yield the salt of formula (IV) :



(IV),

which is filtered off, and there being isolated :

- on the one hand the (2S) isomer of formula (IV a) :

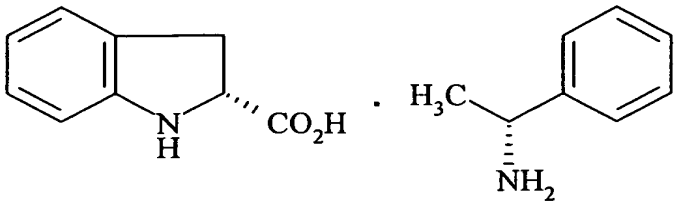


(IV a)

in the form of crystals,

which compound of formula (IV a) is then treated with hydrochloric acid to yield the compound of formula (I),

- and on the other hand a mixture of the (2S) isomer of formula (IV a) and the (2R) isomer of formula (IV b) in which the (2R) isomer predominates:



(IV b)

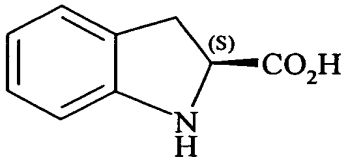
by evaporation of the filtrate,

which mixture is then treated with hydrochloric acid to yield a mixture of (2R)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid and (2S)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid in which the (2R) acid predominates,

which is racemised by reaction with sodium hydroxide solution,
at a temperature of from 140 to 200°C,
under a pressure of from 5 to 15 bars,
to yield, after isolation, the compound of formula (III), with which the series of operations described above is repeated,

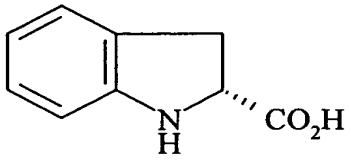
then, after having carried out from 2 to 6 cycles, all the portions made up of the compound of formula (I) are combined.

2. Process for the synthesis of (2S)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid of formula (I) :



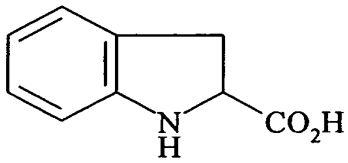
(I),

characterised in that there is reacted (2R)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid of formula (V) :



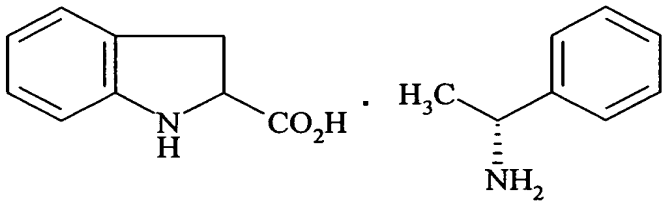
(V)

which is racemised by reaction with sodium hydroxide solution,
at a temperature of from 140 to 200°C,
under a pressure of from 5 to 15 bars,
to yield, after isolation, the compound of formula (III) :



(III),

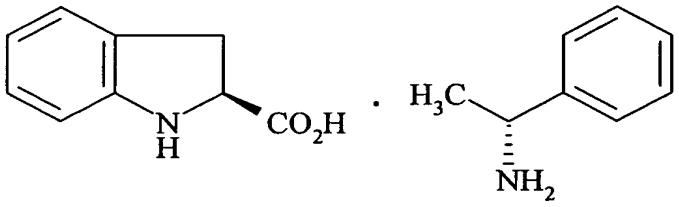
which is reacted with a chiral amine,
to yield the salt of formula (IV) :



(IV)

which is filtered off, and there being isolated :

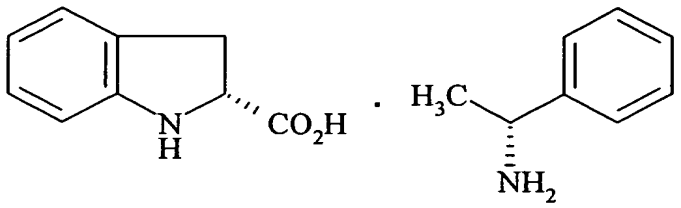
- on the one hand the (2S) isomer of formula (IV a) :



(IV a)

in the form of crystals,
which compound of formula (IV a) is then treated with hydrochloric acid to yield the compound of formula (I),

- and on the other hand a mixture of the (2S) isomer of formula (IV a) and the (2R) isomer of formula (IV b) in which the (2R) isomer predominates :



(IV b)

by evaporation of the filtrate,

which mixture is then treated with hydrochloric acid to yield a mixture of (2R)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid and (2S)-indoline-2-carboxylic acid in which the (2R) acid predominates,

with which there is repeated, if desired, the series of operations described above,

then, after having carried out from 1 to 6 cycles, all the portions made up of the compound of formula (I) are combined.

3. Synthesis process according to either claim 1 or claim 2, characterised in that the chiral amine is (R)-α-methylbenzylamine.

4. Process for the synthesis of perindopril or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof starting from the compound of formula (I), characterised in that the said compound of formula (I) is obtained according to the process of any one of claims 1 to 3.